Open Ended Working Group of the UN General Assembly. Among the issues being discussed are the size of the expanded Council, the numbers of new permanent and non-permanent members, the procedure and criteria for selecting the new permanent members and related issues such as the veto.

(b) and (c) There is widespread recognition in the UN that developing countries must be properly represented in any expansion of permanent membership of the UN Security Council and that India is one of the leading countries qualified for representation in the permanent category in an expanded and restructured Security Council.

(d) Prime Minister, during his address to the UN General Assembly on September 24, 1999 stated that India had the ability and qualifications to discharge the responsibilities that come, with permanent membership and was prepared to do so. India has continued to take an active part in the discussions of UN Security Council restructuring, including those which took place in November, 1998 at the UN General Assembly. India is also engaged in deliberations on the subject in the Open Ended Working Group which was convened in February, 1999.

Reinstatement of Super 301

1756. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the United States has decided to reinstate Super 301 as a part of its global trade strategy;

(b) if so, the details and its impact on India's trade?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) A press release was issued on January 26, 1996 by the Office of the US Trade Representative announcing US President Clinton's decision to reinstate Super 301 and Title VII Executive Order.

(b) Super-301 authority—which expired in 1997—enables the US Trade Representative (USTR) to identify the trade practices which the US considers as constituting "Unfair trade".

USTR will report the results of its 1999 Super-301 review to US Congress at the end of April 1999. There is no immediate impact of the revival of this, authority on India's trade.

India regards all such unilateral measures as counter-productive and unjustified. Issues relating to international trading system should be discussed in the multilateral organisations set up for the purpose.

Economic Restrictions Imposed by US

1757. SHRI SATISH CHANDRA SITARAM PRADHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the News-item captioned "India protests, US is clear, loans our bargaining chip" published in "The Indian Express" dated 28th Jan. 1999;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) The Indian Express of 27th January, 1999 in the news item captioned "India protests, US is clear. Loans our bargaining chip" reported that US Assistant Secretary of State, Mr. Karl Inder-furth stated at a briefing "Our ultimate aim is to remove all sanctions.... how quickly, depends on the progress we make".

(c) Government's position regarding unilateral restrictive economic measures is clear. Government regards all such measures as unjustified and counter-productive and is of the view that they should be lifted. Government, however will not negotiate security issues on this

basis. Government have also stated that for the successful conclusion of talks, creation of a positive environment by our interlocutors is a necessary ingredient.

Shelling by Pakistan Army

1758. SHRI KUSHOK THIKSEY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AF FAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the issue of incessant 'shelling by Pakistani Army in the Kargil District and the suffering of civilan population was discussed in the Indo-Pak talks (WAGAH MEET); and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) Pakistani forces do engage in unprovoked firing across the Line of Control in Jammu & Kashmir, often targeting civilian areas and causing loss of life and damage to property. While Indian forces respond suitably, the issue of Pakistani firing on civilian areas has been taken up through established channels and also at the level of Prime Ministers. Government have demanded that this firing should cease.

Route to Kailash Manasarovar from Demchok

1759. SHRI KUSHOK THIKSEY:
SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister during his visit to Ladakh has promised in a public rally to approach the Chinese authorities to open the route to Kailash Manasarovar from Demchok in Leh district;

(b) if so, what has been the progress in the matter and details thereof; and

(c) whether Government are taking up the matter with the visiting Chinese delegates to India?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (c) Taking into account the grow-ing popularity of the Kailash Manasarovar Yatra, the constraints relating to the existing route and requests from residents in the border areas, the Government have taken up proposals for an alternate/additional route for the Kailash Manasarovar Yatra with the Chinese Government. The route through Demochok (Ladakh, Jammu & Kashmir) is one of the alternative routes proposed to the Chinese side.

The Chinese side have pointed out that travel via Demochok would involve longer distances, in an environment having inadequate infrastructure and poor logistical facilities. They have also expressed the view that development of infrastructure in these remote areas would not be an easy task and building facilities for alternative routes could take a long time.

Government of India, for its part, are willing to consider new routes taking into account the availability of infrastructure and logistical facilities and other relevant factors. Our efforts to open a new route are continuing.

परमाणु संयम के संबंध में पाकिस्तान से साथ चर्चा

1760. **प्रो0 रामगोपाल यादव** :
श्री ईश दत्त यादव :

क्या विदेश मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या पाकिस्तान सरकार ने परमाणु संयम के संबंध में भारत के साथ चर्चा का प्रस्ताव किया हैं,

(ख) यदि हां, तो उक्त प्रस्ताव का विस्तृत ब्यौरा क्या हैं, और क्या सरकार ने प्रस्ताव पर चर्चा करने के लिए समय और स्थान निर्धारित करने की दिशा में कोई कदम उठाया हैं, और

(ग) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या हैं, यदि नहीं, तो पाकिस्तान के उक्त प्रस्ताव पर सरकार ने क्या दृष्टिकोण अपनाया हैं ?

विदेश मंत्री (श्री जसवन्त सिंह) : (क) से (ग) संयुक्त वार्ता प्रक्रिया के भाग के रूप में भारत और पाकिस्तान विश्वासोत्पादक उपायों सहित शान्ति तथा सुरक्षा पर बातचीत कर रहे हैं । अक्तूबर, 1998 में इस विषय पर पहले दौर की बातचीत के दौरान विभिन्न प्रस्तावों का